

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2020***

Select Board Present: Chris Hutchins & Michael Sununu

Absentee: Jamie Thompson

Others Include: Brian Knipstein & Nate Liebenow,

Call to order at 7:00 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated	11/20/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 7,306.80
Checks Dated	11/23/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 12,159.62
Checks Dated	11/25/20:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 22,627.72
Checks Dated	11/27/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 1,055.54
Checks Dated	12/04/20:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$251,700.22

Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to sign the Mosquito/Black Fly Special Permit Application for Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board acknowledged Comcast's rate change for internet services.

The Board received a letter from resident Dottie Dawson declining the stipend for her service to the Town during the 11/3/20 Presidential Election. The Board thanked Dottie for her service to the Town.

Michael motioned, seconded by Chris, to approve the 2020 Tax Collector's Warrant in the amount of \$3,285,220.00 with 8% interest earning from December 21, 2020, and thereafter. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board received letter from a Hemlock resident requesting to lease Hemlock Circle to decorate for the holidays. Current law allows the Select Board to lease property for less than one year. Michael recused himself due to the circumstance. Chris believes that may cause potential legal problems, and therefore, is not in favor of it. The discussion was tabled until the 15th when a full Board will be present.

Chief Liebenow discussed the status of the continuing protests held on Hemlock Court. While he does not want to infringe on free speech, he believes residents have a right to privacy and should not be harassed in their homes. He advised a having a new Town Ordinance drawn up to resolve this situation. He advised the Board of a Supreme Court Case that addressed a similar situation. He provided the Board with some sample ordinances from the case. Nate also advised the Board

of his discussion with the Town's legal counsel who gave a general support of the sample ordinances, advising that it would hold legal ground.

Michael, reserving his judgement on the subject, would prefer the Board speak with legal prior to having a public hearing during the next Board meeting on the 15th.

Kelly McGowan who attended virtually, added her preference that something be done sooner rather than later.

Chief Liebenow asked if they could hold earlier meetings to get the ordinance approved. The Board discussed the legal requirements for adopting new ordinances.

Michael asked to have his following statement formally known for the record. "Clarified under the RSAs, I do not have any pecuniary interest or personal conflict of interest, nor does it personally address me, despite that, I will only deal with the process of what the Town is doing and not the content of it. In terms of what does, and does not, get acted upon, I will make sure my comments are restricted to making sure whatever we do is the proper process."

The Board will follow up with legal counsel and will also reach out to Jamie to set a date for another Board Meeting for next week.

Brian presented his 2020 Budget. It remains the same as last year. He would like to recoup the \$20k that was not used for Winkler Way. He discussed the need to increase the paving budget in the next few years. Deertrees/Bassett is due, as well as Old Lee and beyond Meadow. He advised the Board that Pleasant Street/Swamscott Street will need to be ground and paved for around \$70k. Chris notified Brian that the edge of Bald Hill is in need of repair. Michael asked Brian to decide how much more funding would be needed each year and email the Board a seven year estimate.

Brian would also like to address the Evergreen Ct circle next year; estimated at \$20k, to make a catch basin for the snow. He asked the Board what is necessary to get a permit for the drainage. Michael asked him to produce a plan for the Board to review. Brian would also like the door to the Salt Shed replaced for around \$3k.

Sue presented the Budget for the Town Office. The Executive Budget showed an increase of \$6,500. This is due to the increase in health insurance. The budget includes 3% increase in salaries. Sue informed the Board of \$11k left in this year's budget.

Michael confirmed with Sue that the Town's voting machine is getting old and asked Sue if the Secretary of State (SOS) has certified any new equipment. Sue replied that the SOS is in the process of reviewing new equipment and that every town will have the same system. None will be connected to the internet. The process will take a few years. In the meantime, she is comfortable with the integrity of the Town's machine and always tests it prior to Elections. She does not know price the future machine.

Sue discussed the Administration budget. The Town is still in need of a Deputy Treasurer. This budget includes accounting software contract and annual auditing expense. The town spent less on advertising and conferences due to Covid-19.

She would like to add leaf guards on the gutters of the building. Michael knows someone who recently had his done and will reach out to get an estimate.

Sue informed the board that she will have the entire budget completed for the 15th to review and allocate to each line. She advised the Board of the shortage on the legal line.

She notified the Board that the last day for the petition article will be January 12th. The budget hearing will also be scheduled this day for 7:00 pm.

The Deliberative session is still in question as to whether to have it at the school or Town Hall as she believes it will be difficult vote via Zoom. She will be contact the State for guidance. The school has set their deliberative session for Thursday, February 4th. Tuesday, March 9th will be Newfields voting day.

She also mentioned the filing period of January 20th-29th for Town Officials. Jamie will be up for re-election. Tom Morgan is resigning from his Trustee of the Trust Fund position with one year left of his 3 year term. Another Trustee position will be open in March as well. One position is a one year term; the other a three year term.

Michael advised the Board that the Celebration Committee will not be doing a traditional holiday celebration. Instead, a parade will drive throughout the entire town ending with a tree lighting at the Town Hall. This celebration will take place on Sunday December 6th from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Chris added that residents can check out Holiday Happenings in Exeter

Michael notified the Board of a residents request to build a town hockey rink on the Seller's field this season and possibly ever winter. Chris felt it is worth having a conversation with the owners. Michael will reach out to the owners of the property to see if they will allow it.

The board reviewed the November expenditure. Michael noted a 100 ton shortage of expected waste collection bringing the total to at, or below, last year's total. The Board is still awaiting CCAC's final recycling report but this will put the town at a good financial position for next year.

Chris motioned, seconded by Michael, to approve the 11/17/20 Select Board Meeting Minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

At 7:55 pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Chris, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien

